

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 27, line 26 as follows:

Turning now to FIGURE 4c, there is illustrated a preferred embodiment of the invention, in which media sent to VRU 800 is redirected to travel directly between the originating gateway 810 and terminating gateway 812, thus bypassing VRU 800. Once the called party is validated, application server 803 instructs CCS 802 to redirect the media streams. CCS 802 requests that originating gateway 810 and terminating gateway 812 send their respective RTP streams directly to each other, instead of to VMS 804. CCS 802 accomplishes this by tearing down RTP session 824 between originating gateway 810 and VMS 804, and by tearing down RTP session 830 between terminating gateway 812 and VMS 804. Only RTP sessions 824 and 830 are torn down; H.323 call 820 between originating gateway 810 and CCS 802 VMS 804, and H.323 call 828 between terminating gateway 812 and CCS 802 VMS 804, are left connected.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 34, line 26 as follows:

Referring to message protocol 940 in FIGURE 7, assume that there are two separate calls, A & B, already set up between a first gateway 946 and the VRU, and between the VRU and a second gateway 948, as discussed hereinabove. VRU application 942 initiates media redirection by issuing media redirect command 950 to VoIP driver 944 inside the VRU. VoIP driver 944 then handles the detailed protocol of sending Media Redirect Messages to the gateways to accomplish the media redirection. First VoIP driver 944 sends DROP_RTP A Message 952 to gateway 946 to command gateway 946 to drop the media stream between gateway 946 and the VRU. Similarly, VoIP driver 944 sends DROP_RTP B Message 954 to gateway 948 to command gateway 948 to drop the media stream between gateway 948 and the VRU. VoIP driver 944 then sends NEW_RTP A-to-B Message 956 to gateway 946 to establish the new media stream from gateway 946 to gateway 948. Similarly, VoIP driver 944 then sends NEW_RTP B-to-A Message 958 to gateway 948 to establish the new media stream from gateway 948 to gateway 946. Finally, VoIP driver 944 sends media redirect complete message 959 back to VRU application 942 to indicate completion of the media redirection. As previously discussed, only the media streams are redirected, and the H.245-G.931 H.245 - Q.931 call control structures between the VRU and each gateway are left intact.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 35, line 12 as follows:

Once the call is complete, or for another reason, the VRU may command the gateways to tear down the redirected media streams. After the media streams are torn down, the VRU may either command the gateways to tear down the call controls, or the VRU may command the gateways to set up new RTP sessions with the VRU, similar to the structure that existed before the media redirection. To illustrate the latter option, and with reference to message protocol 960 in FIGURE 8, assume that the media redirection illustrated in FIGURE 7 has already taken place, and that the media streams are set up directly between gateway 966 and gateway 968. VRU application 962 initiates media redirection tear down by issuing media redirect tear down command 970 to VoIP driver 964 inside the VRU. VoIP driver 964 then handles the detailed protocol of sending Media Redirect Messages to the gateways to accomplish the media redirection tear down. First VoIP driver 964 sends DROP_RTP A-to-B Message 972 to gateway 966 to command gateway 966 to drop the media stream from gateway 966 to gateway 968. Similarly, VoIP driver 964 sends DROP_RTP B-to-A Message 974 to gateway 968 to command gateway 968 to drop the media stream from gateway 968 to gateway 966. VoIP driver 964 then sends NEW_RTP A-to-VRU Message 976 to gateway 966 to reestablish the media stream from gateway 966 to the VRU. Similarly, VoIP driver 964 then sends NEW_RTP B-to-VRU Message 978 to gateway 968 to reestablish the media stream from gateway 968 to the VRU. Finally, VoIP driver 964 sends media redirect complete message 980 back to VRU application 962 to indicate completion of the media redirection tear down. As previously discussed, only the media streams are reestablished between the VRU and the gateways, and the H.245-G.931 H.245 - Q.931 call control structures between the VRU and each gateway continue to remain as they were originally set up.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 40, line 7 as follows:

Accordingly, VRU 800 opens up another data stream (or maintains an original media link) to telephone 814, shown as data stream (or maintains an original media link) 1093, and another data stream to telephone 832, shown as data stream 1094. At this point telephone 814 is receiving two data streams, one from the called party at telephone 832 and another from VRU 800. Likewise, the called party at telephone 814 is receiving two data streams, one from the calling party at telephone 832 and another from VRU 800. However, according to this preferred embodiment, as VRU 800 is not actually participating in the conversation, but merely broadcasting advertisements or other messages, the data streams between VRU 800 and telephones 814 and 832 are preferably half duplex. Accordingly, the embodiment of FIGURE 10 provides a special case of a conference where various conference participants are in communication utilizing links having different characteristics.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 42, line 21 as follows:

According to a preferred embodiment, when the call record feature is selected, such as through the aforementioned key sequence *73, VRU 800 issues instructions for network devices to make a copy of the data streams and direct these replicated data streams to VRU 800, or some other device operating according to the present invention. For example, in the illustrated embodiment, VRU 800 signals gateway 810 801, through signaling channel 1195, to replicate the media stream associated with telephone 814 and to direct it to VRU 800 through a link such as newly established link 1193. Similarly, VRU 800 signals gateway 812, through signaling channel 1196, to replicate the media stream associated with telephone 832 and to direct it to VRU 800 through a link such as newly established link 1194.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 47, line 6 as follows:

As illustrated in FIGURE 14a a full duplex call has been established between telephones 814 and 832. This call may be established as described above. For example, a caller using POTS telephone 814 may dial a toll free service access number to thereby be coupled to VRU 800, such as via a full or half duplex audio connection (such as media link 824 shown in FIGURE 4a) and/or a signaling connection, such as signaling connection 1495. VRU 800 may then execute an interactive voice script with the caller to provide voice greetings and/or menus and thereby acquire/provide information, such as information with respect to a method of payment for a call and/or a desired called party. Thereafter, VRU 800 may place a separate, secondary call to POTS telephone 832 to thereby couple VRU 800 to telephone 832, such as via a full or half duplex audio connection (such as media link 828 shown in FIGURE 4b) and/or a signaling connection, such as signaling connection 1496. Finally, to place telephone 814 in communication with telephone 832, media sent to VRU 800 is preferably redirected to travel directly between the originating gateway 810 and terminating gateway 812 (data streams 1491 and 1492 ~~1091 and 1092~~), thus bypassing VRU 800.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 53, line 17 as follows:

It should also be appreciated that the particular configurations of the above described preferred embodiments may be varied according to the present invention and are, therefore, provided herein as exemplary embodiments of the inventive concepts described herein. For example, a full duplex link between telephones 814 and 832 is not a limitation of the present invention. Telephone 814 may wish to simply “broadcast” a message to telephone 832 ~~814~~, and possibly additional communication devices, and therefore a half duplex link may be established there between. Likewise, a half duplex link between VRU 800 and telephone 814 and/or telephone 832 is not a limitation of the present invention.